

Introduced by Senator Runner

January 31, 2006

An act to add and repeal Section 52128.7 of the Education Code, relating to class size.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1217, as introduced, Runner. Class size reduction: Lancaster School District.

Existing law establishes the Class Size Reduction Program to provide funding to school districts to reduce class size in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, to not more than 20 pupils per certificated teacher.

This bill would, on a pilot project basis and until July 1, 2011, authorize the Lancaster School District to implement an alternative class size reduction program to reduce class size in kindergarten and grades 1 to 5, inclusive, to 25 pupils, subject to certain conditions.

This bill would declare that, due to the unique circumstances applicable to the Lancaster School District, a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution, and the enactment of a special statute is therefore necessary.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 52128.7 is added to the Education
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 52128.7. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, as
- 4 an alternative to a class size reduction program that reduces class

1 size in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, to 20 pupils as
2 set forth in this chapter, the Lancaster School District may, on a
3 pilot project basis, implement a class size reduction program to
4 reduce class size in kindergarten and grades 1 to 5, inclusive, to
5 25 pupils.

6 (b) All of the provisions of this chapter shall apply to this
7 alternative, except that classes shall also be reduced in grades 4
8 and 5 and the class size shall be reduced to 25 pupils rather than
9 20 pupils.

10 (c) In order for the Lancaster School District to implement this
11 pilot project, the governing board of the school district shall first
12 approve this alternative at an open public hearing.

13 (d) If the Lancaster School District implements this pilot
14 project, it shall cease to operate on a multitrack year-round
15 education calendar and instead implement a traditional school
16 calendar.

17 (e) In order to continue participation in the pilot project, a
18 school shall show continued improvement in its Academic
19 Performance Index scores during its participation.

20 (f) If the Lancaster School District implements this pilot
21 project, it shall provide an annual evaluation report to the state
22 board on the effects on pupil achievement under the reduction of
23 class size to 25 pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 5,
24 inclusive.

25 (g) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and,
26 as of January 1, 2012, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute
27 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2012, deletes or
28 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is
29 repealed.

30 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
31 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
32 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
33 Constitution because of the unique circumstances of the
34 Lancaster School District.